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Negro Farmer's Contribution to American Agriculture



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Presented in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's exhibit is the success story of the Negro farmer of America and how that success not only makes for better living on the land, but also contributes to better living in our towns and cities.

There are some 275,000 Negro farmers in the United States. Ninety-eight percent of them reside in the South where they own more than 7 million acres of land—an area approaching the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. The value of their land and buildings totals \$915,551,000, and their annual production of crops and livestock exceeds \$540 million.

And these products—hogs and cattle, broilers and eggs, milk and butter, fruit and vegetables, grain and nuts—are so efficiently produced with improved methods and modern equipment that they help make food a real bargain. In addition to food crops (their sideline), Negro farmers grow really sizable quantities of cotton and tobacco.

Pictures of farmers with their tractors and grain combines, mechanical cotton pickers and corn harvesters, milking machines, and other equipment shown in the exhibit symbolize the Negro farmer's application of modern technology.

Use of these machines and the adoption of improved farming methods have made the Negro

farmer a quality producer. More and more he is planting better strains of crops and raising grade and purebred livestock.

Often the production of quality output has its beginning in 4-H Club projects in which boys and girls raise champion calves and hogs, and prized acres of grain, cotton, and vegetables.

The Chicago 4-H'ers taking part in Agriculture's presentation are among the 2 million white and colored young people who hold membership in the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health organization. Unable to raise crops and livestock in the city, Chicago and other urban 4-H'ers have turned to practical city projects, such as arts and crafts,



the past 26 years to buy land, build modern homes, and purchase livestock and equipment, and the Soil Conservation Service which has helped farmers halt erosion and maintain and improve the fertility of their land.

Among the pioneer professional Negro agricultural leaders were Booker T. Washington who held the first farmers conference at Tuskegee in 1891 and Dr. George Washington Carver who designed in 1906 a mule-drawn farm demonstration van. T. M. Campbell, the first Negro farm demonstration agent, drove this van all over Alabama, teaching improved farming methods.

These and hundreds of others have played a major role in helping Negro farmers to become soundly established.

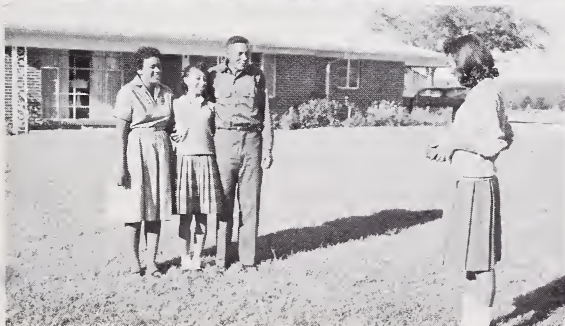
But mostly through his own efforts, the Negro farmer has built a better life not only for himself and family, but also has contributed to better living for city people in ways as diverse as the land he cares for and keeps fruitful.



DID YOU KNOW THAT?*

- Number of Negro farmers in U. S. is 271,599.
- Among these are 127,283. owners.
- Land owned is more than 7 million acres.
- Value of land and buildings is \$915,551,000.
- Negro farmers produced \$546 million worth of products in 1959.
- Negro farmers own 71,000 tractors, 76,000 trucks, 5,000 grain combines, and 3,000 corn pickers.

* Figures are for the South where 98 percent of all Negro farmers reside.





Welcome -

I am pleased to welcome you to our exhibit in this CENTURY OF NEGRO PROGRESS EXPOSITION. In our display we present the important contribution of Negro farmers to American agriculture. It is a contribution in modern farming techniques and efficient production that helps to make food in America a real bargain.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is proud of this achievement and of its own part in providing practical assistance to all farmers through research, education, credit, conservation, and other programs.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Orville L. Freeman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "O" and "F".

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE